Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A radio transmission device, comprising:

a memory containing a relay uniform resource locator (URL), said relay URL indicating an address of a relay server programmed to transmit a profile URL indicating an address where a preference profile corresponding to said radio transmission device is stored;

a transmitter connected to said memory such as to permit transmission of said relay URL to an appliance.

2. A device as in claim 1, wherein said memory contains a unique identifier of said radio transmission device for transmitting to said appliance.

3. A device as in claim 1, wherein said transmitter and said memory are part of a transponder with no internal power source.

4. A network server, comprising:

a memory, a controller, and a network interface effective to respond to relay addresses stored on various ID devices and to receive an ID device identifier from one of said ID devices transmitted by an appliance;

said controller being programmed to retrieve from said memory a profile address where a profile corresponding to said ID device identifier is stored;

said controller being programmed to transmit said profile address to said appliance.

5. An appliance, comprising:

a controller and a receiver connected thereto and effective to receive an ID device identifier;

a network interface connectable to a relay server corresponding to said ID device;

said controller being programmed to transmit data responsive to said identifier to said relay server and receive a profile address in response from said relay server;

said controller being further programmed to access profile data on said profile server.

6. A method of controlling the operation of an appliance, comprising the steps of:

delivering first access data to an appliance, said access data providing network access to first configuration data;

receiving at said appliance at least a portion of said first configuration data via said network;

configuring said appliance responsively to said first configuration data;

delivering second access data to said appliance, said second access data providing network access to second configuration data;

receiving at said appliance at least a portion of said second configuration data;

reconfiguring said appliance responsively to said second configuration data.

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7. A method as in claim 6, wherein said first and second steps of delivering each include delivering data from a portable device permanently storing said first and second access data, respectively.

8. A method as in claim 7, wherein said first receiving step includes receiving first relay data responsive to a network server identified in said first access data, receiving profile data made accessible via said network by said first relay data and said second receiving step includes receiving second relay data responsive to a network server identified in said second access data, and receiving profile data made accessible via said network by said second relay data.

9. A method as in claim 6, wherein said first receiving step includes receiving first relay data responsive to a network server identified in said first access data, receiving profile data made accessible via

said network by said first relay data and said second receiving step includes receiving second relay data responsive to a network server identified in said second access data, and receiving profile data made accessible via said network by said second relay data.

10. A method as in claim 6, wherein:

said first and second steps of delivering include delivering data from a portable device permanently storing said first and second access data, respectively;

said device is a radio frequency identification device.

11. A method as in claim 10, wherein each of said first and second access data are permanently stored in respective first and second radio frequency identification devices.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said steps of delivering include co-locating a radio frequency identification device with said appliance.

13. A method as in claim 6, wherein said first step of receiving includes receiving a portion of profile data including data relating to said appliance and data relating to another type of appliance.